

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 01317 311104Z

15

ACTION AF-06

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R 311017Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9942

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1317

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS UNDER SECRETARY SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, SU

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF US POLICY TOWARD SUDAN

REF: STATE 123634

1. DURING ROUTINE MEETING WITH FONOFF USEC MIRGHANI MAY 31 ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, AMBASSADOR INFORMED HIM THAT DEPT HAD DECIDED TO AUTHORIZE AT THIS TIME NORMAL OPIC AND EXIM TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING SUDAN. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THIS FIRST STEP IN NORMALIZATION PROCESS SHOWED THAT EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES TO CONTRIBUTE TO FAVORABLE EVOLUTION IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WERE NOW BEARING FRUIT. SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ACTION MERELY REMOVED "HOLD" ON NORMAL OPIC AND EXIM ACTIVITIES; IT DID NOT NECESSARILY ASSURE ACCEPTANCE ANY PARTICULAR SCHEME. MIRGHANI EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION AND SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD. BOTH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AND FONMIN BIHEIRI WOULD BE DELIGHTED HEAR OF THIS DEVELOPMENT AND MIRGHANI WOULD SEE THAT THEY WERE BOTH INFORMED LATER IN DAY.

2. MIRGHANI THEN COMMENTED THAT HE FELT POLICY OF GRADUAL RESTORATION FULL RANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS REPRESENTED CORRECT WAY TO PROCEED. SUDAN WELCOMED THIS DEVELOPMENT FOR TWO REASONS: (A) ANY ASSISTANCE FROM USG WAS PER SE IMPORTANT TO GOS; AND (B) IT HELPED RESTORE "BALANCE" TO SUDANESE FOREIGN
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 01317 311104Z

POLICY. MIRGHANI EXPLAINED CANDIDLY THAT THERE REMAIN NUMBER

OF COMMUNISTS IN GOS WHO ARE CURRENTLY QUIESCENT BUT REPRESENT
POTENTIAL THREAT. IMPROVED TIES WITH USG WOULD STRENGTHEN
SUDANESE WHO OPPOSE THESE COMMUNISTS AND MAKE IT MORE
DIFFICULT FOR LATTER EXPLOIT IMBALANCE IN GOS FOREIGN
RELATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT HE HAD EARLIER TOLD MIRGHANI
THAT USG WOULD BE UNABLE IN FUTURE FISCAL YEARS FINANCE SHIP-
MENT PL 480 AND OTHER COMMODITIES FROM MOMBASSA TO JUBA.
IT HAD NOW BEEN DECIDED, HOWEVER, THAT EXISTING ARRANGEMENT
PERMITTING THIS COULD BE CONTINUED FOR FY 76 (STATE 121480).
THIS REPRESENTED ANOTHER INDICATION OF USG DESIRE TAKE ACCOUNT
SPECIAL GOS TRANSPORTATION AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. MIRGHANI
EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AND SAID THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI WOULD
BE PROMPTLY INFORMED.
BREWER

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